(b) whether Bangladesh Government have also agreed to abide by the reports of the joint survey ;

(c) if so, whether the joint survey has been going on the full report has been received by both countries; and

(d) if so, by what time the report is likely to be implemented and Government are likely to implement the suggestions made in the report?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) to (d) Do not airse.

Future of Indo-US nuclear deal

476. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are speaking in respect of the future of Indo-US nuclear deal in different languaes as the Hon'ble Prime Minister has reportedly told to the US President that there certain difficulties in implementing the deal;

(b) whether contracting optimist official sources on 17th October, 2007 have said that Indian-US nuclear deal would be different if Government do not move soon enough for safeguards negotiations with IAEA; and

(c) if so, the exact stand and outcome of the Indo-US nuclear deal as on date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) and (c) India and the USA have agreed on the text of an 'Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy'. The finalised text of the Agreement has received the approval of the Cabinet. As negotiated by India in the Agreement, India will complete the negotiation of an Indo-specific safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Thereafter adjustment of the guidelines of the Nulcear Suppliers Group (NSG) and approval of the US Congress for operationalisation of the agreement will be sought.

Sino-Indian border talks

477. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sino-Indian talks on the settlement of border issue were held, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken thereat ; and

(c) the effective steps that have so far been taken by the two Governments to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The eleventh round of Special Representatives Talks on the India-China boundary question was held on Beijing from 24 to 26 September 2007. The Special Representatives of the two countries, Mr. M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser and Mr. Dai Bingguo, Vice Foreign Minister held useful and positive dicussions on the framework for the settlment of the India-China boundary question. The two sides agreed that the next round of talks would be held in Beijing. The specific dates would be decided through diplomatic channels.

The two countries have earlier signed the Agreement on the Political Paramaeters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question on April 11, 2005, which envisages a three-stage process in seeking a politcal settlement of the boundary question.

Houses for weaker sections

478. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of houses for weaker sections, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to provide accommodation to these weaker sections of the society;

(c) whether cost of construction has gone up manifold;

(d) if so, whether any schemes are available to provide interest free loans to weaker sections of the society; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) A Technical Group on Estimation of Housing shortage has estimated Housing Shortage of 24.71 million at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan in urban areas. Out of this, 99% of the shortage pertains to Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups. Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to cope with the problem of shortage in housing and infrastructure services in a mission mode for 63 select cities under Basic Services to Urban Poor. For remaining cities, a scheme namely Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme has also been launched under JNNMURM. The component of assistance under the scheme includes upgradation and new construction of houses and infrastructural facilities like water supply and sanitation as part of slum improvement. Both BSUP and IHSDP are demand driven schemes and the fixation of targets as well as quantum of progress depends upon proposals submitted by State Governments/Local Bodies.

(c) to (e) The Government is concerned about the rise in process of houses. The Government, with a view of providing interest rate subsidy for housing loans availed by the urban poor including SCs/STs has made budget provision of Rs. 30.00 crores in the financial year 2007-08.

Houses for slum dwellers in Nagpur

†479. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of people living in the slum in cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Nagpur has doubled;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any plan to settle/rehabilitate them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of houses contructed for the slume dwellers of Nagpur and the number of houses planned to be constructed in future?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.